

09-24504

PTO/SB/21 (08-03)

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**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Application Number	09/988,954
Filing Date	November 21, 2001
First Named Inventor	P. Bonutti
Art Unit	3738
Examiner Name	P. Prebilic
Attorney Docket Number	780-A02-006-11

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form | <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance communication to Group |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> After Final | <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application | <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation | <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application | <input type="text" value="Remarks"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 | | |

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual name	Paul D. Bianco, Reg. 43,500
Signature	<i>Christopher J. Menke</i> Reg. # 53,316
Date	September 23, 2004

Express Mail Label No.: EV 269992990 US CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

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Typed or printed name	Dinah Fuentes		
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Confirmation No.: 9219

Application No.: 09/988,954

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-006-11

Filed: November 21, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3738

For: TISSUE STABILIZATION METHOD

Examiner: P. Prebilic

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Introductory Comments

Dear Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed June 23, 2004, please enter the following amendments and remarks into the file for the above-identified application. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Response begins on a separate sheet. Applicant submits these amendments and remarks serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability.

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAIL

I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.10 that the attached paper(s) or fee(s) is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Services "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" to Mail Stop Amendment


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